

Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON ARMED FORCES LOW MORALE

1. OTTAWA JOURNAL NOVEMBER 23 PUBLISHED ARTICLE ENTITLED
"THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES: A CHALLENGE TO DECLINING MORALE."
2. ARTICLE BY JOHN BEST CONFIRMS DISCLOSURES THAT LEVEL OF FORCES HAS
DROPPED "300 TO 4000 BELOW THE 83,000 LEVEL FIXED AS BOTTOM
POINT..." AND STATES THAT WHILE DEFMIN JAMES RICHARDSON DENIES
SERIOUS MORALE PROBLEM, "...ANYBODY WHO HAS HAD ANY CONTACT...
WITH FORCES KNOWS THAT INCREASING NUMBERS OF SERVICEMEN ARE
DISGRUNTLED AND DISENCHANTED."
3. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, DECISIONS ARE NOT BEING TAKEN AND
"SENIOR OFFICERS COMPLAIN ABOUT DRIFT AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL..."
ARTICLE THEN GOES ON TO CITE "FUROR" CAUSED BY SUDDEN AWARENESS
BY CANADIANS THAT "...ATTRITION HAD PASSED THROUGH THRESHOLD
BELOW WHICH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO THINK OF THE FORCES
AS A VIABLE STRUCTURE, CONSIDERING THEIR MANY
RESPONSIBILITIES."
4. SPECIFIC ATTENTION IS PAID TO CANADIAN MARITIME
FORCES, WHICH ARE DESCRIBED BY SENIOR MARITIME COMMAND
OFFICERS AS "STRETCHED TO THEIR LIMITS... MUCH OF OUR
EQUIPMENT IS WEARING OUT AND BECOMING OBSOLETE... UNLESS

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CANADIAN OBLIGATIONS TO THE NORTH AND TO FISHERIES, TO

ANTI-POLLUTION AND TO MILITARY SURVEILLANCE..." ARE MET,
"OTHER COUNTRIES WILL DO IT FOR US WITH INEVITABLE ADVERSE
EFFECT ON CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL PRIDE."

5. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY SAYING "RICHARDSON IS OBVIOUSLY
IN A TOUGH SPOT, CAUGHT BETWEEN HIS ASPIRATIONS FOR THE
FORCES, WHATEVER THESE MAY BE, AND THE DETERMINATION OF
THE CABINET TO KEEP A TIGHT REIN ON DEFENSE SPENDING.BUT
THE TIME HAS SURELY ARRIVED TO COME CLEAN AS TO WHAT THE
FUTURE HOLDS..."
JOHNSON

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